

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An acoustic apparatus comprising:  
one or more front speaker disposed at front side in  
5 a space for outputting a first audio signal;  
one or more rear speaker disposed at rear side in the  
space for outputting a second audio signal;  
a volume control device for controlling volume level  
of the first audio signal and the second audio signal;  
10 a balance control device for controlling balance  
between the volume levels of the first audio signal and the  
second audio signal by attenuating the volume levels of the  
first audio signal and the second audio signal;  
an external signal supplying device for supplying an  
15 external audio signal to either one of the front speaker  
and the second speaker; and  
a control device for controlling the volume control  
device to attenuate the volume level of the audio signal  
when the external audio signal is supplied to one of the  
20 front speaker and the second speaker which has not been  
attenuated by the balance control device and the balance  
control device attenuates the volume level of said one of  
the front speaker and the second speaker.
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2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the  
control device controls the volume control device to  
attenuate the volume level of the audio signal to a minimum  
level.
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3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the  
minimum level comprises a zero level.
4. An apparatus according to claim 2, further

comprising a mute instruction unit for detecting a mute instruction inputted by a user, wherein the control device controls the volume control device to attenuate the volume level of the audio signal when the mute instruction is  
5 detected by the mute instruction unit.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the volume control device sets the volume levels of the first audio signal and the second audio signal to the volume  
10 levels before the external audio signal is supplied, when supply of the external audio signal ends.

6. An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the control device comprises:

15 a storage unit for storing the volume levels of the first audio signal and the second audio signal before the external audio signal is inputted;

a readout unit for reading out the volume levels stored in the storage unit when the supply of the external  
20 audio signal ends; and

a changing unit for changing the volume levels of the first audio signal and the second audio signal to be the volume levels readout by the readout unit.

25 7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control device detects a supply of the external audio signal by receiving a signal indicating the supply of the external audio signal from the external signal supplying device.

30 8. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control device detects a supply of the external audio signal by monitoring the external audio signal supplied to the speaker.